



# American Outlook

American Citizen Services  
United States Mission, Turkey  
May 2015 Newsletter



## Featured in this quarter's issue:

- *Passport Validity: Recommended eight months beyond date of entry into Turkey*
- *New Period for Turkish Residence Permits*
- *Chase Bank Overseas Operations for Benefits Collections*
- *Upcoming Turkish Elections*
- *SSA Online Services*
- *SSA's New Blog "Social Security Matters"*
- *Updated IRS Smartphone App IRS2Go Version 5.0 Now Available*
- *Security-Worldwide Caution*
- *Upcoming Holidays*
- *Our Contact Info*

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## PASSPORT VALIDITY: RECOMMENDED EIGHT MONTHS BEYOND DATE OF ENTRY INTO TURKEY.

As of January 1, 2015 foreigners wishing to enter Turkey must carry a passport or travel document with an expiration date at least 60 days beyond the expiration date of their visa, visa exemption, or residence permit. Therefore, as Turkish tourist visas are generally valid for 6 months, U.S. citizens should have a passport that is **valid for eight months beyond entry date**. Passports should have enough blank space to allow for Turkish entry and exit stamps. If there is not enough space for entry and exit stamps in your passport, you will be denied entry into Turkey.

### ***What happens if you don't have enough validity on your passport?***

- If your passport validity is less than **60 days**, you will not be allowed to enter Turkey.
- If your passport has a validity of **60 to 75 days**, you will be allowed to enter Turkey with an approved stay of 10 days.
- If your passport has a validity of 75 days to 6 months, you will be allowed to enter Turkey with an approved stay of 15 days.

***If you stay longer than your approved stay, you will be subject to a fine.***

### **NEW PERIOD FOR TURKISH RESIDENCE PERMITS.**

DGMM will provide service through Provincial Directorates of Migration Management in 81 provinces as of May 18, 2015. A central appointment system is developed for those who will apply for residence permit for the first time and who will transfer between residence permits; e-renewal system for those who will only renew their residence permit without changing the type of the current residence permit.

A new policy will start on Monday, May 18, 2015. Prior to this date, migration issues (specifically the residence permits) were being controlled by the Turkish National Police. Now the control is being given to the Directorate General of Migration Management (Goc Idaresi Genel Mudurlugu). The DGMM office addresses can be found online at [www.goc.gov.tr](http://www.goc.gov.tr)

Further announcements on the Turkish residence permits can be found at

[http://www.goc.gov.tr/icerik/announcements\\_914\\_1016](http://www.goc.gov.tr/icerik/announcements_914_1016)

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### **CHASE BANK OVERSEAS OPERATIONS FOR BENEFITS COLLECTIONS.**



If you are receiving your SSA, OPM or VA benefit by Chase card in Turkey, please be informed that your direct benefit card will no longer accept deposits as of July 31, 2015 but your card will continue to work and you'll have full access to your existing funds.

If you are receiving your benefits from the SSA or VA, you may open up a USD account at a Turkish bank, have the bank employee complete and sign the bank account info at the below form and then return your completed form to the Regional Federal benefits Office in Athens by fax or by e-mail. You will start receiving your benefits at your USD account in Turkey within 60 days.

[Turkish Form](#)

[English Form](#)

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### **UPCOMING TURKISH ELECTIONS.**

Turkey will hold general elections on June 7, 2015. The country is governed by a parliamentary system based on the single-chamber Grand National Assembly to which members are elected to serve four-year terms. The Grand National Assembly is composed of 550 members who are elected through a proportional representation system.

Every Turkish citizen upon the age of 18 has the right to vote. The age one can be elected is 25. Supervision and administration of the election process is with an independent judicial body named "Supreme Election Board."

According to a proportional representation system, general, equal and secret ballot elections are held throughout the country on the same day. The counting, recording and detailed presentation of votes is done publicly. After the votes have been counted and official results declared, the President designates the nominee with the most votes as Prime Minister.

## **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION'S ONLINE SERVICES**

Many services are available online through the Social Security Administration's website. You can apply for retirement at the following link <https://secure.ssa.gov/iCLM/rib>. Please refer to [the video](#) for further guidance.

When you create an online account, you can view your personal information on the Social Security Administration's website. You should have a valid U.S. address and telephone number in order to create an online account. Please be informed that some of the services can only be obtained online during the SSA's works hours.



Depending on your situation, you can see your earnings and estimated future benefits. You may also print and save a copy of your *Social Security Statement* or Benefit Verification Letter.

If you already receive benefits for Social Security retirement, survivors or disability; or if you get Supplemental Security Income or Medicare, you can access:

- Benefit payment amounts;
- Breakdown of current payment calculations;
- Payment history;
- Medicare information;
- Overpayment information;
- Payment type;
- Contact; and

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## **SOCIAL SECURITY'S NEW BLOG "SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS"**

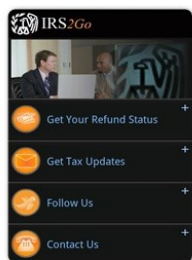
Social Security's new blog, "Social Security Matters" is coming soon.

Social Security provides retirement, survivors, disability, and Medicare benefits to

Americans of all ages, at all stages of life. You may subscribe to the blog at [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSSA/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USSSA\\_136](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSSA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USSSA_136).

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## UPDATED IRS SMARTPHONE APP IRS2GO VERSION 5.0 NOW AVAILABLE



The Internal Revenue Service announced the release of IRS2Go 5.0, an update to the only official IRS smartphone application, compatible with both Apple and Android devices.

Download [IRS2Go](#) free of charge for Android devices from the Google Play Store or from the Apple App Store for Apple devices. Use it to check your refund status, watch the IRS YouTube channel, find free tax preparation help, get IRS news as soon as it's released, subscribe to filing season updates or daily tax tips, and follow the IRS Twitter news feed, [@IRSnews](#), to get the latest federal tax news, including information about tax law changes and important IRS programs.

“The new version of IRS2Go provides taxpayers another way to quickly get information and help around the clock,” said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. “The IRS is focused on providing taxpayers with convenient self-service tools like IRS2Go, but it’s important to remind taxpayers to only use official IRS products to safeguard their personal information.”

Users who have already downloaded past versions of IRS2Go should make sure to update their devices with the most current official- and completely free-version of the app by visiting the Apple App or Google Play Store.

The newest version of the free mobile app offers a number of safe and secure ways for taxpayers to access other popular tools and the most up-to-date tax information, including:

- **Refund Status.** Taxpayers can check the status of their federal tax refund through IRS2Go. People simply enter their Social Security number, which will be masked and encrypted for security purposes, then select their filing status and enter the amount of their anticipated refund for their 2014 tax return.
- **Free Tax Prep Providers.** The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs offer free tax help for taxpayers who qualify. This brand new tool on IRS2Go will help taxpayers find the nearest volunteer tax help site to their home by simply entering their zip code and selecting a mileage range. By clicking on the directions button within the results, the maps application on the device will load with the address, making it easy to navigate to your desired location.
- **Stay Connected.** Taxpayers can interact with the IRS by following the IRS on Twitter, [@IRSnews](#) or [@IRSenEspanol](#), watching helpful videos on YouTube, signing up for email updates, or by using the Contact Us feature.

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For more information on IRS2Go, products and services through [social media](#) channels and other media products, visit <http://www.IRS.gov>.

## SECURITY- WORLDWIDE CAUTION



The Department of State has issued a Worldwide Caution to update information on the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world, which can be found [here](#).

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## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

*The Embassy will be closed on the following American and Turkish holidays:*



**July 3, Friday- Independence Day** (In lieu of July 4)

**July 16-19, Thursday-Sunday -Ramadan Holiday** (from 13:00 on July 16, Thursday)

**August 30, Sunday- Victory Day**

**September 7, Monday - Labor Day**

**September 23-27 , Wednesday-Sunday - Sacrifice Holiday** (From 13:00 on September 23, Wednesday)

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